

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EB/FTD:AJWILLIAMS:HM

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 082761

LIMDIS

FOR MICHAEL B. SMITH

FOLLOWING SENT SECSTATE WASHDC FROM BOGOTA 09 APR 75:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L BOGOTA 3227

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, CO

SUBJECT: TEXTILE NEGOTIATIONS: NEXT STEPS

1. SUMMARY: CHARGE AND ECONOMIC COUNSELOR MET WITH
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MIN RAMIREZ OCAMPO 10 AM
APRIL 9 AND PRESENTED SUGGESTED COURSE OF ACTION OUTLINED
REFTEL. MIN SAID PROPOSAL WAS CONSTRUCTIVE AND
HELPFUL AND THAT HE WOULD TRY TO GIVE US RESPONSE LATE
THIS AFTERNOON. END SUMMARY

2. DEVELOPMENT MIN GRANTED OUR REQUEST FOR
APPOINTMENT IMMEDIATELY AND CHARGE AND ECON COUNS MET
WITH HIM AT 10 AM TO PRESENT SUGGESTED COURSE OF
ACTION OUTLINED STATE 79667, LEAVING WITH HIM
WRITTEN SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS. MIN RESPONDED THAT
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HE THOUGHT PROPOSAL WAS HIGHLY CONSTRUCTIVE AND THAT IT

WOULD GREATLY ASSIST HIM IN CONDUCTING INTERNAL CONSULTATIONS.
HE SAID THAT SUGGESTIONS HAD ARRIVED AT OPPORTUNE MOMENT
AS HE HAD MEETING SCHEDULED WITH HIS "GROUP" AT 3:30
THIS AFTERNOON. THE US PROPOSALS WOULD FACILITATE A
DECISION. THE MIN SAID HE WOULD TRY TO GET BACK TO
US WITH A RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER THE MEETING,
HOPEFULLY BY 5 PM.

3. WITH RELATION TO SUBSTANCE OF US PROPOSAL MINISTER
INDICATED SOME CONCERN OVER LOCATING POSSIBLE FUTURE MEETING
IN GENEVA. IF ADDITIONAL DISCUSSIONS ON MEMO OF
UNDERSTANDING WERE NECESSARY HE STRONGLY FAVORED HOLDING THEM
IN BOGOTA. THE MINISTER SAID HE COULD NOT LEAVE BOGOTA
IN FORESEEABLE FUTURE AND THAT ALTHOUGH HE HAD FULL
CONFIDENCE IN HIS NEGOTIATOR ALBERTO GALEANO UNLESS GOC
DEL HAD IMMEDIATE ACCESS TO MINISTER IT WOULD BE
DIFFICULT TO RESOLVE ANY DEADLOCKS THAT MIGHT ARISE.
HE NOTED IT HAD REQUIRED HIS DIRECT INTERVENTION TO
RESOLVE WOOL ISSUE.

4. MINISTER ALSO MUSED ON THE POSSIBILITY OF AGREEING
ON SOME KIND OF INTERIM ARRANGEMENT PENDING RESOLUTION
OF STATISTICAL DISCREPANCY. WE NOTED THAT (A) MEMO OF
UNDERSTANDING IN EFFECT CONSTITUTED SUCH AN ARRANGEMENT
(B) WE WERE STILL SUBJECT TO STRONG INDUSTRY PRESSURE
(C) THE PERCENTAGE INCREASES GRANTED COLOMBIA
WERE VERY GENEROUS AND (D) THE VIRTUAL CERTAINTY
THAT WASHINGTON WOULD NEED TO HAVE SOME KIND OF
UNDERSTANDING ON THE OUTLINES OF AN AGREEMENT WHILE THE
STATISTICAL DISCREPANCY WAS BEING WORKED OUT. WE TRIED TO
MAKE CLEAR TO MINISTER THAT IN OUR OPINION WASHINGTON
COULD NOT ACCEPT AN ARRANGEMENT THAT WOULD SIMPLY
CONCENTRATE ON THE STATISTICAL DISCREPANCY WITHOUT ANY
UNDERSTANDING ON WHAT WOULD HAPPEN AFTERWARDS. WE THINK
HE UNDERSTOOD THIS.

5. ALL IN ALL MINISTER SEEMED HIGHLY PLEASED TO HAVE
US SUGGESTIONS. WE WILL SEND HIS RESPONSE BY IMMEDIATE
TELEGRAM AS SOON AS WE HAVE IT. WHITE UNQUOTE
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